

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0016] on pages 6-9, as follows:

[FIG. 1] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a structure of an interactive route guide device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[FIG. 2] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram showing typical data recorded in a storage medium of a storage device 2 shown in FIG. 1.

[FIG. 3] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram showing an exemplary data structure of an element DB 22 shown in FIG. 2.

[FIG. 4A] FIG. 4A is a first schematic diagram showing an area surrounding a node N1 which is an object intersection.

[FIG. 4B] FIG. 4B is a schematic diagram showing an exemplary data structure and exemplary contents of a guide direction table 23 (in an initial state) shown in FIG. 2.

[FIG. 5] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing an exemplary data structure and exemplary contents of a guide timing table 24 (in an initial state) shown in FIG. 2.

[FIG. 6] FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram showing an exemplary data structure and exemplary contents of a guide contents table 25 (in an initial state) shown in FIG. 2.

[FIG. 7] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram showing an exemplary data structure and exemplary contents of a request management table 26 shown in FIG. 2.

[FIG. 8] FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram showing an exemplary data structure and exemplary contents of a response contents table 27 (in an initial state) shown in FIG. 2.

[FIG. 9] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram showing an exemplary hardware structure of an arithmetic processing unit 4 shown in FIG. 1.

[FIG. 10A] FIG. 10A is a first half of a flow chart showing processes performed by the interactive route guide device shown in FIG. 1.

[FIG. 10B] FIG. 10B is a second half of the flow chart showing the processes performed by the interactive route guide device shown in FIG. 1.

[FIG. 11] FIG. 11 is a flow chart showing a detailed process of step S11 shown in FIG. 10B.

[FIG. 12] FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of the guide contents table 25 ~~26~~-edited at step S22 of FIG. 11.

[FIG. 13] FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram of the guide contents table 25~~26~~ edited at step S24 of FIG. 11.

[FIG. 14] FIG. 14 is a schematic diagram of the guide contents table 25~~26~~ edited at step S26 of FIG. 11.

[FIG. 15A] FIG. 15A is a second schematic diagram showing the area surrounding the node N1 which is the object intersection.

[FIG. 15B] FIG. 15B is a schematic diagram of the guide direction table 23 edited at step S28 of FIG. 11.

[FIG. 16] FIG. 16 is a schematic diagram showing the guide timing table 24 edited at step S210 of FIG. 11.

[FIG. 17] FIG. 17 is a schematic diagram showing the guide contents table 25 edited at step S210 of FIG. 11.

[FIG. 18] FIG. 18 is a schematic diagram showing an alternative example of a process at step S6 of FIG. 10A.

Please amend paragraph [0039] on page 21, as follows:

The arithmetic processing unit 4 processes various data by using data stored in the storage device ~~1~~2, an output signal from the input device 1~~2~~ and an output signal from the locator 3.

Please amend paragraph [0041] on pages 21-22, as follows:

Refer to FIG. 1 again. The output device~~section~~ 5 includes a display device and/or a speaker. The display device displays various information generated by the arithmetic processing unit 4, and the speaker outputs the various information, which is generated by the arithmetic processing unit 4, in the form of voice.

Please amend paragraph [0052] on pages 26-27, as follows:

FIG. 11 is a flow chart showing a process of step S11 in detail. In FIG. 11, the processor 42 determines whether the number of times of input “N1” has become equal or above a standard value N (step S21). When the processor 42 determines “Yes”, the processor 42 then determines that the user tends to need a landmark as guide information

regarding an object intersection, and then adds, to the guide contents table-~~26~~ 25, an element number that specifies a necessary phrase for outputting a landmark (step S22). To be specific, for example, as shown within a bold-line frame in FIG. 12, element numbers *q, 13 and 18 are added for each of the guide timings “at a point which is 700m before an object intersection”, “at a point which is 300m before an object intersection” and “at a point which is 100m before an object intersection”. Here, *q indicates an element number allocated to a phrase indicating a landmark. In the element DB 22 of the present embodiment, phrases such as “konbiniensu sutoa ga (a convenience store)”, “gasorin sutando ga (a gas station)”, “famirii resutoran ga (a family restaurant)” and so on, which indicate things which can be used as landmarks, are written. Therefore, *q is one or more numbers selected from the element numbers 201 to 210. Accordingly, for example, at a point which is 700m before an object intersection, guide information whose content is “mejirushi ha konbiniensu sutoa desu (A landmark is a convenience store)” other than “oyoso 700m de XX desu (In approximately 700m, turn XX)” is provided. The element numbers selected in the same manner are added also for each of the guide timings “at a point which is 300m before an object intersection” and “at a point which is 100m before an object intersection”.

Please amend paragraph [0053] on pages 27-28, as follows:

After step S22, or when the processor 42 determines “NO” at step S21, the processor 42 then determines whether the number of times of input “N2” has become equal or above the standard value N (step S23). When the processor 42 determines “YES” at step S23, the processor 42 then determines that the user tends to need the name of an object intersection, and adds, to the guide contents table-~~26~~ 25, an element number that specifies a necessary phrase for outputting the name of an intersection (step S24). To be specific, for example, as shown within a bold-line frame in FIG. 13, an element number *r is added just before *j for each of the guide timings “at a point which is 700m before an object intersection”, “at a point which is 300m before an object intersection” and “at a point which is 100m before an object intersection”. Here, *r indicates an element number allocated to a phrase indicating the name of an intersection. In the element DB 22 of the present embodiment, a phrase “A kousa ten wo (A intersection)”,

which indicates an intersection, is shown as an example. Therefore, *r is an element number 1001. Accordingly, for example, at a point which is 700m before an object intersection, guide information whose content is “oyoso 700m de A kousa ten wo XX houkou desu (In approximately 700m, turn XX at A intersection)” is provided. The element number selected in the same manner is added also for each of the guide timings “at a point which is 300m before an object intersection” and “at a point which is 100m before an object intersection”.

Please amend paragraph [0054] on pages 28-29, as follows:

After step S24, or when the processor 42 determines “NO” at step S23, the processor 42 then determines whether the number of times of input “N3” or the number of times of input “N5” has become equal or above the standard value N (step S25). When the processor 42 determines “YES” at step S25, the processor 42 then determines that the user tends to need, at the start of route guiding, a travel distance and a travel time, and then adds, in the guide contents table-26 25, to guide information which is defined to be outputted at the start of route guiding, element numbers that specify necessary phrases for outputting a travel distance and a travel time (step S26). To be specific, as shown within a bold-line frame in FIG. 14, element numbers 15, *n, 19, 16, *s, 22 and 18 are added for the guide timing “at the start of route guiding”. Here, *n and *s are as described above. Accordingly, for example, at the start of route guiding, guide information whose content is “onsei annai wo kaishi shimasu (Voice guiding starts now), soukou kyori wa 15km desu (The travel distance is 15 km), shoyou jikan wa 15 hun desu (The travel time is 15 minutes)” is provided.

Please amend paragraph [0056] on page 30, as follows:

After step S28, or when the processor 42 determines “NO” at step S27, the processor 42 then determines whether the number of times of input “N8” has become equal or above the standard value N (step S29). When the processor 42 determines “YES” at step S29, the processor 42 then determines that the user is unconfident about identifying which intersection is an object intersection, and edits the guide timing table 24 and the guide contents table 25 (step S210). To be specific, as shown in FIG. 16, the

processor 42 24 adds, to the guide timing table 24, a new distance from an object intersection (e.g., 40m as shown in FIG. 16) as a new guide timing in addition to the guide timings which have already been defined. As shown within a bold-line frame in FIG. 17, the processor 42 24 further adds, to the guide contents table 25, the newly-added guide timing along with element numbers *j and 18. A guide information content is thus added for the newly-added guide timing. This allows guide information whose content is “hidari houkou desu (turn left)” to be provided at a point which is 40m before the object intersection.

Please amend paragraph [0062] on page 32, as follows:

As described in the above embodiment, since the tables 23 to 27 are updated and edited by the arithmetic processing control-unit 4, the storage device 2 includes a storage medium that is rewritable and nonvolatile, and it is also described as a matter of convenience that the map DB 21 and the element DB 22 are also stored in the storage device 2. However, the map DB 21 and the element DB 22 do not necessarily have to be stored in the storage device 2, and may be stored in a different read-only storage device.